## Amusement News and Stage Door Chat for the Playgoer

#### HappyHusband Interested in **Divorce Laws**

When a man has been happily married for nearly a decade it is not expected that he will have more than a passing interest in divorce laws and divorce procedure. Mention the subject to him and he appears to listen, but actually his mind is miles away. He shrugs his shoulders, takes his cigar out of his mouth for a moment and says: "Divorse; oh, yes, divorce," but seldom does he get any further.

Edwin Maxwell, who is playing in "East is West" at the Astor, and is its stage director, does go further. He is married, happily he admitted, and yet takes a deep interest in divorce laws. He said:

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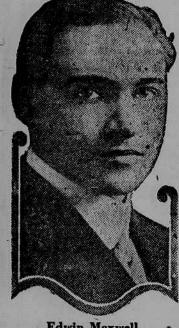
"Take the problem of incompatibility. A man and woman are bound legally. Their natures are diametrically opposed; they can't get on. Economically, the woman is unable to take care of herself. 'I dare you to leave my house' is the man's attitude. Every heur the woman spends with such a man is bringing her nearer toward death, and actually the man is as much a murderer as if he had stuck her with a knife in the first place, and the law is an accessory before and after the fact.

"I know of many such cases. People seem to overlook the fact that if a man and woman are good friends as well as husband and wife they have a 50 per cent advantage over others. The divorce laws should be amplified and made much more lenient, and the judge in the divorce court should be a specialist, one trained in psychology and with a wide knowledge of human relations."

But Edwin Maxwell is not always so

lons."

But Edwin Maxwell is not always so erious. He has what he calls an "exerior frown" which is misleading, lemetimes he seems gloomy and for-



Edwin Maxwell

bidding, but actually is not. He has a finely developed sense of the ridiculous, which he says has helped him over many a stubborn place. His grandfather and father, both named Edwin, were physicians, and he himself has the degree of M.D. from the University of Edinburgh, but, oddly enough, not one of the three practiced the profession. The oldest Edwin Maxwell closed his medical books and turned to civil and sanitary engineering, the next one became a textile expert and the present Edwin Maxwell turned to the stage as director and actor. Actually, he left the stage temporarily to study in Scotland, for at fifteen he made his start as an actor in "The Last Days of Pompeii." He can't account for his own failure and the failure of his father and grandfather to practice medicine after taking their degrees. bidding, but actually is not. He has a

their degrees.
"Perhaps it was an economic reason that led them to study medicine. Possibly they wanted to learn how to take care of their families," he said.

sibly they wanted to learn how to take care of their families," he said.

During his twenty-four years of stage experinece Maxwell has found time to help arrange the books of a big financial organization when a receiver took hold, to do newspaper work on the Pacific Coast, to teach dramatic art, to direct motion pictures and to study stage direction. Next to acting or directing he likes nothing better then to take the motor of his car apart and fuss over it until he has accumulated more grease on his person than any machinist in a garage.

Since "East Is West" started en its long run Maxwell has been called upon the play practically every male part in the play, and has yet to be in a play where this has not been true.

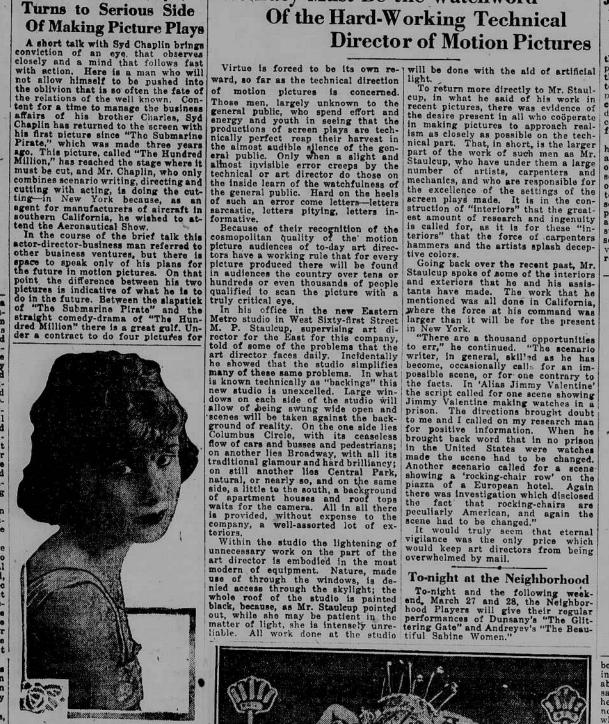
"The stage director," he says, "should be given complete control, as he usually is, without being compelled to play a part. Several of the managers have come around to this point of view and are choosing men of weight and dignity to keep things running amoothly backstage."

To play as many parts as he does it is necessary to have a knowledge of

Briggs Shows What He Saw at "The Passion Flower"



#### Chaplin's Brother, Syd, Turns to Serious Side Of Making Picture Plays



Edythe Baker

Famous Players, Mr. Chaplin plans to devote himself solely to comedy-drama and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs sheep will and to drama. The baggy pants and the hogs beythe use of three years ago will naver agon by him.

"There are such unlimited possibilities in the motion pictures," said Mr. Chaplin and can be proved the stage of the and the stage of the stage of the and the s

BROADWAY—Priscilla Dean in "The Virgin of Stamboul," for the first week of an indefinite engagement; Hugo Jansen's "Powder Puff Follies."

5TRAND—D. W. Griffith's latest production, "The Idol Dancer," with Richard Barthelmess and Clarine Seymour in the cast; Bray animated cartoon; Chester scenic.

RIVOLI—Wallace Reid in "Excuse My Dust"; a Bruce scenic; a comedy entitled "Squeaks and Squawks."

BIALTO—Dorothy, Gish in "Mary Ellen Comes to Town"; "The Champion"; a Charlie Chaplin revival.

### **Accuracy Must Be the Watchword** Of the Hard-Working Technical

company, a well-assorted lot of exteriors.

Within the studio the lightening of unnecessary work on the part of the art director is embodied in the most modern of equipment. Nature, made use of through the windows, is denied access through the skylight; the whole roof of the studio is painted black, because, as Mr. Staulcup pointed out, while she may be patient in the matter of light, she is intensely unreliable. All work done at the studio



Nina Payne in Vaudeville

Joe McCarthy's Irish Mother's Reply Inspired Him in His First Song

"Years are when I was a saw small

"Years ago, when I was a very small



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# Sam Harris insists the province of the theater is to entertain—first, last and all the time. So does Mr. Lincoln. He believes the same thing about books, and his readers will testify that he is a good entertainer. But one never can tell what authors will do once they turn playwrights. They want to revolutionize the drama before they're been in the show business five minutes. But Mr. Lincoln is one of those humble workers who never hope to reform, nor revolutionize, nor even revivify, human nature through the spoken, written or acted word.

nature through the spoken, written or acted word.

"It's almost presumptuous," apologized the author, "for me to talk at all about the theater. You see, I'm only an accident in it. "Shavings' would never have become a play if it hadn't been for Colonel Savage. He's a Yankee, and he saw in my book the possibilities of a Yankee play. Nobody is more surprised than myself that 'Shavings' became a play. I can't believe it yet. Every night I go by the theater to make sure I'm not dreaming or something. I'm worse than little Babbie, our nine-year-old child in the play, who looks in the lobby before

Romanticists

Are More Real

Are our realists of the theater really

the remanticists, and our secrned remantic writers the real realists, after

all? Joseph C. Lincoln has just been turning us topsy-turvy on this engrossing subject. Incidentally, this Cape Cod author, whose first dramatized work, "Shavings," has just settled itself

on Broadway, is really interesting. The quarrel between the realists and the romanticists of the theater has al-

ways seemed deadly dull and abstruce. Sam Harris insists the province of the

Than Realists

At the Rialto



Dorothy Gish in "Mary Ellen Comes to Town'

she goes backstage to be sure she is really in the picture display. So you see I'm not one of your confident dra-"I haven't even any quarrel with the

#### WOLFSOEN MUSICAL BURBAU AND MUSIC LEAGUE OF AMERICA ANN CARNEGIE HALL, THIS AFTERNOON AT 3 MOISEIWITSC

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## HILHARMONIC

Tchaikovsky-Wagner

including Symphony "PATHETIQUE" ickets at Box Office. Felix F. Leifels, Mgr. Princess Thea., Tues, Aft., March 28, at 8.

Penelope Davies

Acolian Hall, Friday Evg., Mar. 26, at 8:15 SECOND PIANO RECITAL—ANIS **FULEIHAN** Mgt. Daniel Mayer. Steinway Plano.

3rd Frederic Warren Ballad Concert March 22, Acollan Hall, 3 P. M.

Acolian Hall, Sun. Aft., April 4, 41 PIANO RECITAL BY BASS

VER KERK

NOVAES in ALL CHOPIN Program
Mgt. Loudon Charlton. Stainway Plan

Acollan Hall, Mon. Eve., Mar. 29, at 6.3 2d Violin Recital HELES

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